

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT for Region 8**  
**Week ending April 8, 2016**

**OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION**

**April 4, 2016--- Colorado Abandoned Mine Inventory Stakeholder Engagement Group** The first meeting of the Colorado Abandoned Mine Inventory Stakeholder Engagement Group was held on March 30. The purpose of the group is to develop a comprehensive AML data hub for all stakeholders to use to determine impacts, risks of potential impacts, and prioritize restoration efforts. Participants included representatives from EPA, CDPHE, CDRMS, USFS, USGS, Park Service, BLM, DOE, and CGS. CDPHE provided funding to CGS in order to develop this AML data hub, which will ultimately be a comprehensive list of all abandoned mines in Colorado. Topics discussed included the background of the inventory project, compilation of current available databases, vision for the inventory, process for creating the database, and a plan for moving forward. While each organization may have different uses of the database the group will look to developing the database which will have tiered access (for security purposes) to data depending upon the user. The next meeting has been set up for mid-April. The CGS and CDPHE met with a Denver Post reporter following the meeting. The EPA attendees were Ryan Bahnfleth, Peter Stevenson and Jean Wyatt. **Contact: Jean Wyatt (312-6258)**

**OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

*No report*

**OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE**

*This week –*

**EPA REGION 8 REACHES OUT FOR NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY:** In support of National Healthy Schools Day on April 5, 2016, Region 8 collaborated with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) in Denver. Region 8 was able to facilitate meetings between NEHA and Aurora Public Schools (APS) which focused on supporting and recognizing food waste reduction initiatives APS students have undertaken. Initial meetings with APS students will be held April 6, 2016, with potential collaborative activities between APS, NEHA and R8 to follow. In addition, Region 8's outreach through social media focused on EPA's new *Sensible Guide for Healthier School Renovations* to help schools avoid key environmental health hazards and minimize children's exposures as they prepare for and undertake school renovations.

**Contacts: Chris Frye, 312-6223; Virginia Till, 312-6008; Melanie Wood, 312-7006**

**EPA REGION 8 PESTICIDES PROGRAM HOLDS SPRING MEETING WITH THE COLORADO COALITION FOR SCHOOL INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM):** On April 5, 2016, the Region 8 School IPM Coordinator met with sixteen Colorado School Districts, Facility Management personnel from Colorado University Boulder and Colorado Springs campuses, and Colorado State University Extension personnel to promote the advancement and adoption of the School Integrated Pest Management program in Colorado schools. The program focus is on reducing the exposure of students and staff to pesticides while in school facilities, eliminating asthma triggers from pest and pesticides, and creating the healthiest possible school environment to support the learning experience while protecting human health and the environment.

**Contacts: Clyde Wilson, 312-6217; Anthony Deloach, 312-6070**

**REGION 8 SAFER CHOICE SPRING CLEANING WEEK APRIL 4-8, 2016:** To promote Safer Choice Spring Cleaning Week, Region 8 conducted outreach to the forty largest school districts and sixty child care centers and associations within Region 8. In addition, the Safer Choice Child Care Centers Factsheet developed by Region 8 was adopted by the Connecticut Department of Public Health's Office of Early Childhood and will be used as an educational reference for the 3,800 licensed child care homes and centers in the state. Region 8 conducted a social media campaign. In addition, Region 8's in-reach for Safer Choice includes: a Safer Choice Scavenger Hunt, a weekly Safer Choice in-reach quiz, and a "name the Safer Choice" puppy contest.



**Contacts: Wendy Dew, 312-6605; Laura Jenkins, 312-6256; Suzanne Satter 312-6614, Melanie Wood, 312-7006;**

*Next week –*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 13693, PLANNING FOR FEDERAL SUSTAINABILITY IN THE NEXT DECADE, FIRST CLIMATE CHANGE PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE PLANNING**

**WORKGROUP MEETING:** On April 11, 2016, EPA Region 8 and the General Services Administration will co-chair the first interagency workgroup meeting. Ms. Christine Harada, the Federal Chief Sustainability Office with the Council on Environmental Quality, will welcome the workgroup participants with a video message. Ms. Eliza Hotchkiss of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory will present an overview of the White House Council on Environmental Quality's Colorado Climate Change Resiliency Pilot project. A discussion will follow to identify the replicability of the project through Region 8 and the needs of federal agencies to address Climate Adaptation/Resiliency planning requirements under the Executive Order.

**Contacts: Mary Byrne, 312-6491; Melanie Wood, 312-7006**

*This spring-*

**REGION 8 UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAM TO PARTICIPATE IN OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (OIG) REVIEW:** The OIG is initiating a review titled *Evaluation of EPA Efforts to Protect Tribal Communities From Risks Related to Underground Storage Tanks* to look at the agency's implementation of underground storage tank (UST) programs on tribal lands, including a look at the adequacy of EPA's 2015 UST regulations in addressing tanks releases on those lands that pose the greatest environmental or human health threats. The focus of the review will be on answering two questions: 1) Do the EPA's 2006 Tribal Strategy and 2015 revised underground storage tank regulations prioritize and address releases that present the greatest threat to human health or the environment; and 2) Has the EPA reduced the overall backlog of underground storage tank cleanups in Indian Country?

**Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

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**Contact: Janice Pearson, 312-6354**

*Next week-*

**PINE RIDGE PROMISE ZONE: INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND LAND USE  
PROJECT GROUP MEETING IN RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA:**

On April 13, 2016, EPA Region 8 will facilitate and support the initial meeting for the Integrated Infrastructure and Land Use Project Group, established under the Promise Zone structure by the Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST). This meeting will have participants from OST program offices, Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation, and multiple federal agencies (EPA, HUD, DOT, EDA, USDA, FEMA, IHS, BOR). Cindy Cody (EPA Sustainable Communities Program) and Denise Mesteth (OST Land Office) are the co-leads for this project group. We will discuss the benefits of integrating infrastructure planning and implementation decisions, and how OST and federal programs can best support that approach. EPA Region 8 will support this project with participation from sustainable communities, tribal assistance, and water and finance programs.

**Contacts: Cindy Cody, (303) 312-6228; Natasha Davis, (303) 312-6225; Andrea Griese, (605) 945-1192; Paul Felz, (303) 312-6388; Melanie Wood, (303) 312-7006**

**OFFICE OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

*No report*

**MONTANA OPERATIONS OFFICE**

*No report*